



KING COUNTY
Healthcare
Coalition

Prepare. Respond. Recover.

★★ RMRC BULLETIN ★★

I-5 LANE CLOSURES: AUGUST 10-29 Stage 3 Begins Early

August 16, 2007

Bulletin #4

Next Bulletin:

Tuesday, August 21

Closure Dates:

August 10, 22:00 to
August 29, 05:00

What is the RMRC?

The RMRC is the operational arm of the King County Healthcare Coalition. It provides a central coordinating point for resource management and communications coordination. For more information, visit <http://www.metrokc.gov/health/hccoalition/>

Closure Debrief for Healthcare Partners**:

August 30, 2007, 7:30am
Region 6 Meeting
KCECC, Renton
For more info, contact
Allison Schletzbaum at
aschletz@u.washington.edu

**Pending completed construction

Stage 3

Estimated Start: Thursday, August 16

Estimated Finish: Friday, August 17

COMPLETE CLOSURE OF NB I-5 WILL OCCUR FRIDAY, AUGUST 17 FOR UP TO ONE HOUR BETWEEN MIDNIGHT AND 2 A.M.

Stage 3 Changes

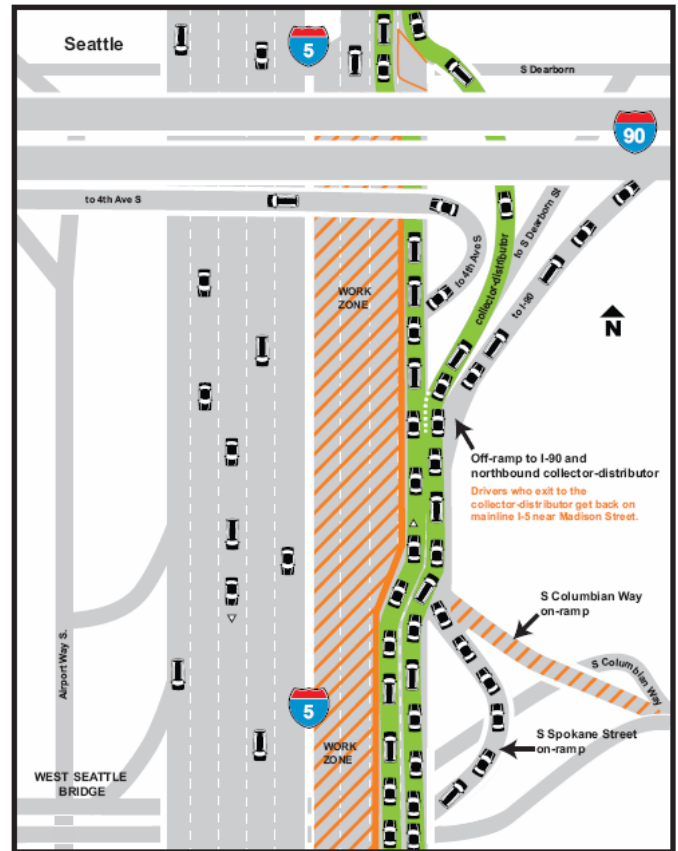
- Stage 3 is beginning one day early and barring any issues, construction should be finished by Saturday, August 25.
- 4th Ave S Exit will reopen.
- S Columbian Way on-ramp to NB I-5 is still closed.
- West Seattle Bridge to NB I-5 will be open.
- Only one lane and the collector-distributor lane will be open.

First Work Week Nearly Over

- Commuters continue to cooperate and make alternate arrangements.
- Traffic has increased slightly through the construction zone but backups are still better than a typical morning commute.
- Volumes on the Sounder train have decreased and steadied over the week, but parking is still limited at the park and rides for later trains and busses.
- EMS and Airlift NW have had few issues in their response related to the I-5 closures.

Other Things to Consider

- The Mariners play at home this weekend, with games Friday through Sunday.
- People returning from vacation next week could increase traffic.
- Rain could slow construction progress.



Contacting the RMRC between August 10-29



Allison Schletzbaum
(206) 744-6213



rmrc@kchealthrac.org

For after hours assistance, please call the
Public Health Duty Officer at
(206) 296-4606.



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I-5 Closures: A Great Practice Run

Thankfully, most healthcare facilities have experienced little or no headaches as the result of the I-5 closures. However, the preparation and response required for this event was a great practice run. Our Healthcare Coalition members and partners were proactive in addressing this event. Please see below to read about what some organizations did to prepare. A full-after action discussion will occur on August 30, 2007 at the monthly Region 6 Hospital Emergency Preparedness Meeting (details in the left column).

Puget Sound Blood Center

The Puget Sound Blood Center was prepared to make big changes in their operations if the closure warranted it, but thankfully, there haven't been any major challenges. They worked with local volunteer boat owners to create an agreement that would allow them to move blood through the Puget Sound if the roads were jammed. They also moved their courier home base to their Central Office to avoid the anticipated Georgetown crunch.

Swedish Medical Center

Swedish Medical Center has fared well through the closures. They implemented a staff shuttle from the King Street Station for the Sounder train and it has been well received by their staff. Some staff are even requesting that they keep the service after the closures.

Virginia Mason Medical Center

Virginia Mason, like many other hospitals, undertook major efforts toward staff and patient education. A link on their homepage sends patients and community partners directly to information regarding the closures. They posted alerts throughout their facilities and regularly communicated information to their staff starting in mid-July.

Washington Poison Control

The Washington Poison Center set two of their senior staff members up with remote connections to allow them to answer calls from their South King County homes. This is a brand new venture for WAPC and now that it has proven successful, this will help them implement a more formal system that will explore issues related to surge support, disaster/pandemic operations, and staff illness coverage.

~~Stage 1 - Friday, August 10, 22:00 to Monday, August 13~~
~~Stage 2 - Monday, August 13 to Wednesday, August 15~~
Stage 3 - Thursday, August 16 to Friday, August 17
Stage 4 - Monday, August 20 to Tuesday, August 21
Stage 5 - Wednesday, August 22 to Wednesday August 29

***These stages are weather dependant and may change.
Dates in **RED** have changed.*

Resources

Contact your local EOC to liaison with DOT during the project.

Contact the RMRC for assistance with medical vendor issues during the project.

Check this website during the project for updates: <http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/Projects/I5/SpokaneStreetBridgeRepair/>

Questions?

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aschletz@u.washington.edu

WSDOT Communications
(206) 440-4704
i5Seattle@wsdot.wa.gov
Staffed from 6am-11pm throughout closure. You will reach a person, not a recording.